Child marriages

@@@949. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of Child marriage still exists in several parts of the country despite ban imposed by Government:

(b) whether Government propose to direct State Governments to strictly follow the guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken by Government in case any incident of child marriage comes to the notice of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, which restrains child marriage, was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for all matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973 (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant. The implementation of the Act lies with State Government. The State Governments have to take action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. A number of steps, including stress on education, have been taken by the Government for educating people about the consequences of the evil practice of child marriage through mass media, by involving voluntary organisations in the task and by other measures. These include radio programmes, exhibition cinema slides, posters and short documentary films on TV, group discussions with rural women etc.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 589 transferred from the 11th May, 1990.

Steps to strengthen Tax Administration

950. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose new steps to strengthen tax administration for ensuring better tax collection/compliance; and

(b) if, so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Ensuring better tax collection and promoting better compliance by tax payers are foremost objectives of the tax administration. Appropriate measures in this regard are evolved on a continuous basis from time to time keeping in view the budget estimates and other various fiscal aspects of economy.

Irregularities in the recruitment and promotions of employees of ITDC

951. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Officers Welfare Forum' ITDC (Registered) and other trade unions operating there, through their various letters in January/February 1990 brought to the notice of ITDC Management/Government certain glaring cases akin to corruption, favouritism and nepotism in recruitment and promotion of officials in ITDC;

(b) If so, what are the broad facts of the cases as mentioned in the said letters and reaction of the Management/Government on each case mentioned therein.

(c) whether Government propose to hold an inquiry to bring on surface the cases of nepotism and favouritism as alleged to be going on in ITDC for quite some time in a systematic manner; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The representations received from the Forum contained allegations of favouritism and corruption in the matter of promotion. These representations have been examined by the ITDC management but the allegations have not been proved correct. As the promotions have been made in accordance with the Recruitment, Promotion, and Seniority Rules of the Corporation, the question of holding enquiry does not arise.

Complaints against ITDC chief

952. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Officers Welfare Forum' ITDC wrote to the Minister of Tourism in January, 1990, regarding colossal wasteful expenditure being incurred by the ITDC Chief;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The letter mainly contained allegations of wasteful expenditure on the conversion of guest rooms in Ashok/Samrat hotels for residences of Executives/ Chief Executive thereby causing loss of revenue to the hotel unit.

(c) Some rooms, which are unlettable to guests due to V.V.I.P. Security have been converted into residential apartments in Samrat Hotel. These apartments have been allotted to Chief Executive/Sr. Hotel Executives as per operational requirements and general practice in the Hotel industry.

Recruitment of sportsmen in the office of Director of Audit, Eastern Railway, Calcutta

953. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an advertisement was published/telecast in All India papers/TV in May, 1989 for recruitment of sportsmen in the office of Director of Audit, Eastern Railway, Calcutta against sports quota;

(b) whether call letters were issued to candidates in November, 1989 for trials conducted from 20th November, 1989 to 22nd November, 1989;

(c) whether any candidate was selected as Champion in the trials;

(d) whether it is a fact that a corrigendum was published in the press subsequently for correction of alleged mistake in the original advertisement;

(e) whether the Management found defects with the main advertisement after the official trail was over;

(f) whether it is also a fact that call letters were issued to some candidates on 20th November, 1989 in violation of all norms;

(g) if the reply to parts (a) to (f) be in the affirmative whether action has been taken against the official concerned for this irregularity after investigation; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(h) whether genuinely selected candidate would be given appointment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (b) An ad-